

REMARKS

Claims 16-23 and 40 are pending. Claims 1-8, 15, and 38-39 have been cancelled. Claims 9-14 and 24-37 have been withdrawn. Claims 16-21 and 40 are currently amended. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesy that the Examiner provided by meeting with inventor Kenneth L. Smith and Applicant's attorney, Sandra K. Nowak, on Thursday, April 10, 2008. Applicant agrees with the substance of the April 18, 2008 Interview Summary prepared by the Examiner.

§ 102 Rejections

Claims 16-23 and 40 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,614,286 to Bacon, Jr. ("Bacon") and U.S. Patent No. 5,657,162 to Nilsen ("Nilsen").

Applicant has amended independent claims 16, 20, and 40. Support for these amendments can be found at, for example, pages 9-13 and pages 18-20 of the present application. Neither Bacon nor Nilsen describe or suggest the compound substrates recited in amended claims 16, 20, and 40. Claims 17-19 and 21-23 each add additional features to amended independent claims 16 and 20, respectively. Consequently, Applicant believes that the rejection of claims 16-23 and 40 under 35 USC § 102(b) has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. If the Examiner does not believe that the application is in condition for allowance, Applicant requests a telephone interview to more fully understand the Examiner's position and advance this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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